



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

HARTFORD CARES: HOPE AND HEALING AS WE BUILD A GREATER HARTFORD

---NEWS RELEASE---

(July 1, 2008)--- Togetherness was the theme of a very hopeful, musical, and prayerful June 30th evening in Bushnell Park at the event called "Hartford Cares." Mayor Eddie A. Perez thanks Leadership Greater Hartford for orchestrating this call to action and vigil at his request and producing a program that was both moving and motivating.

Mayor Perez says, "Ted Carroll and the members of Leadership Greater Hartford worked tirelessly to showcase the Hartford we all know and love. So often, we utilize music and artistry as a way to heal and to provide hope. This was no exception. 'Hartford Cares' provided people of this great city and region the platform to rise above recent acts of violence and turn our outrage towards violence into positive actions. Hartford has overcome challenges in the past and we will again as we continue to have conversations, re-connect with one another, and recommit ourselves to building a stronger and greater Capital City and region."

The "Hartford Cares" concert and gathering is the part of a series of events that are taking place starting this summer to increase public dialogue and exchange accurate information. Details on the next event will be announced shortly.

Prior to "Hartford Cares," there were several informational news conferences that demonstrated solidarity between city leaders, business owners, community leaders, clergy, and family members of victims. The focus continues to be that Hartford is a community that stands together. Mayor Perez says, "We are not going to let anybody take away the progress we have made together to make Hartford a safer and more vibrant city and we will continue to show that Hartford is caring and compassionate city."

One example of that care and compassion is the fact that there were four 9-1-1 calls made within one minute of an elderly gentleman being struck on Park Street.

Recent examples of zero tolerance towards violence include the announcement of the \$10,000 investment by the Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation and commitment by MetroHartford Alliance to bring "Crime Stoppers" to Hartford and the enforcement of a city ordinance by the Hartford Police Department calling for public safety police detail for places of public amusement and extended hours business premises.

Mayor Perez says, "Through partnerships and working with the community, this City can and will move forward. This is the 'City of Hope and Opportunity' and has served as the gateway to the New World for generations of Americans. We will build on our proud history and work together to continue to build on our promising future."